

BSW Timber Fires Up Major Biomass Boiler at Mid-Wales Site

Written by Karl

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Annual savings of £700,000 forecast through Government's Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme

BSW Timber has installed the UK's largest biomass hot water boiler plant to benefit from the Government's Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) at its sawmill in Newbridge-on-Wye, Powys.

The plant consists of two 3 megawatt biomass boilers and is set to create environmental savings of more than 2,800 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year - as well as improving annual profitability for BSW by £700,000 through oil cost savings and the RHI scheme. The boiler plant was designed and project managed by leading renewable consultancy, Sustainable Energy Ltd, in partnership with the Carbon Trust.

BSW Timber is the UK's largest sawmiller and the Newbridge mill produces sawn timber products from UK-sourced softwood, much of which is dried in on-site kilns. The kilns were previously heated by oil boilers and the co-products from the sawmilling processes - including wood chips and bark - were sold and removed from site by road transport.

By transferring their heat production to a six MW wood-chip boiler and using co-products as fuel, BSW will offset the annual consumption of up to one million litres of oil per year - and remove 280 lorries from the local roads.

Mill Manager Dave Burd said: "This is a major project which sets down a successful blueprint for

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the rest of our mill operations across the UK. The benefits will be significant in reducing carbon emissions and taking lorries off our road, as well as making our overall site operation more cost-effective.

“The plant has been delivered on schedule, to budget and is already exceeding our performance expectations already by meeting key environmental and financial objectives”. Managing Director of Sustainable Energy Ltd, Dr Gabriel Gallagher, said: “The BSW Timber contract is a fantastic example of how businesses can benefit widely by converting to biomass heating, in terms of savings on fuel bills, becoming more environmentally friendly and potential to expand the business and create jobs”.

“The significant environmental benefits from the project at BSW also gained the support of both The Carbon Trust and the Forestry Commission.”

BSW Timber is the largest sawmilling business in Great Britain, with six sawmills in the UK and one in Latvia and production capacity of over 1,000,000m³ of sawn timber per year. BSW Timber supply sawn timber products to customers in the Construction, Pallet and Packaging, Fencing, Garden and DIY product sectors.

With over 12 years experience in the biomass industry Sustainable Energy Ltd is a Cardiff-based independent consultancy specialised in delivering renewable energy projects for organisations across the UK.